Plans to Boost Fruits Export

3550. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans to boost fruit exports; and

(b) the measures taken in collaboration with Agriculture production Export Development Agency to plan for increasing export of eggs & mangoes from Andhra Pradesh where they are in excess?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) and (b) Steps taken to enhance production and boost exports of horticultural products including mangoes and eggs throughout India including the State of Andhra Pradesh with the help of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) etc, interalia, include:—

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transpsort units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities. integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest/ ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;

(v) Establishment of vappor heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/ Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;

(vi) Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of selected fresh vegetables and fruits and hatcing eggs;

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and mango festivals and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

(ix) providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport etc.

Convention of IPRs

3551. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: